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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4500
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFISS/CJTF HOA PRIORITY

UNCLAS KHARTOUM 002201

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPT FOR AF/SPG, S/CRS, AF/RSA
DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KPKO](#) [SOCI](#) [AU](#) [UN](#) [US](#) [SU](#)

SUBJECT: [FIGHTING RESUMES](#) IN NORTH DARFUR AS NRF CAPTURES UM SIDIR

¶1. (SBU) UN sources report that on September 11, National Redemption Front (NRF) forces attacked and recaptured Um Sidir, 90 km north of El Fasher. In reprisal for the NRF attack, on September 12, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) initiated bombing of Um Sidir and Hashaba North. It is believed that SAF ground forces will most likely follow the aerial bombardment within 24-48 hours. These forces are likely to come from the Kutum, Kafod, and Mellit staging areas, possibly extending along the Kutum-Kulkul-Mellit line. There are also reports of fighting in the Dobo area, East Jebel Marra, and the region from Tawilla to Tabarat and surrounding areas. Note: Embassy Political Specialist in El Fasher also reports fighting, to include the hijacking of several Government vehicles, resulting in many killed and wounded, with wounded being medevaced to hospitals in El Fasher. End note.

¶2. (SBU) Comment: The NRF attack on Um Sidir is likely an attempt to forestall the SAF offensive pushing northwest out of El Fasher into rebel-held areas of North Darfur. SAF ground troops are expected to retake and hold Um Sidir in coming days. End comment.

POWERS